

Henry Starr's Romance Began When He Helped Girl-Victim Fleeing From Train He Robbed

Disguised Honeymoon, Starr as New Mexico Rancher, Resulted in His Capture; Bride Taught School in Tulsa and Henry Hid Here for Year

For several months prior to the robbery of the two banks at Stroud, Okla., March 27, 1915, Henry Starr, now in Tulsa, within a stone's throw of the homes of officers who were seeking him on a former charge, and was using the name of E. L. Williams, which was the name of Oklahoma's governor who had offered \$1,000 for Starr's capture. An account of Starr's residence here is contained in a story which appeared in the World shortly after the Stroud robbery. It was obtained and written by J. Burr Giddens, then a reporter with the World staff, and Rufus Steel, a magazine writer, who was here from the east to obtain the story of Starr's life. It follows:

"While the officers of the west were searching for him in a lonely and mountainous country of five states, Henry Starr, noted bandit and outlaw, recently shot and captured at Stroud, Okla., while executing the robbery of two banks, lived in luxury in the heart of this city, enjoying all the comforts of modern life, driving his own automobile, and attending the picture shows regularly.

"This startling fact was revealed by Henry Starr himself yesterday to a newspaper man who gained his confidence and wanted a picture of his home for his paper.

"I'll tell you where the place is," the bandit told his new acquaintance, "but I don't want a lot of detectives, policemen and curiosity seekers ransacking my home."

"And then the bandit told him the story of the most daring maneuvers ever carried on by a fugitive from justice, and this in the very midst of hundreds of friends and acquaintances who knew him intimately.

"The Starr home was located at 1534 East Second street, in this city, a pretty new five-room bungalow with electric lights, hot and cold water, bath and telephone. In a small garage at the rear of the property the noted bandit kept his five passenger Ford automobile, in which he took nightly joy rides over the paved streets of this city. He was a regular attendant at the leading movie picture theaters where he saw enacted upon the screen the reproduction of the thrilling events that he had executed in real life.

"The Starr home was within two blocks of the home of Sheriff James Woolley, county sheriff of Tulsa county, four blocks of the home of Mayor Frank M. Wooden of Tulsa—the close neighbor of members of the school board, newspaper men and city and county employees—the block from his home the new Grace M. E. church is being erected, and directly across the street to the north, between the Starr home and the residence of Sheriff Woolley, is the Washington schoolhouse, the largest ward school in the city. No fence separates the property from the children's playgrounds, and 1,200 children daily play around his back door, unconscious of the very presence of the man who had been pointed out to them as one of the worst characters in the country.

"To be exact, the Washington school and one residence is all that separates the home of the outlaw from the home of the sheriff.

"While policemen, detectives and deputy sheriffs of the west were on sharp lookout for him while his brilliant picture and measurements were in the hands of every police department in the country and a reward aggregating several thousand dollars was hanging over his head, Henry Starr was driving past

the home of Tulsa county's sheriff almost every night.

"Needless to say, Starr kept himself properly concealed in the daytime and the household was managed in the name of Laura Williams. The telephone, water, electric light and gas contracts for the home were in the name of Laura Williams, and both Tulsa daily newspapers whose editorial departments were clamoring daily for some sensational development of Starr's checkered career, were delivered to the bandit's front door every morning and evening.

"Who was the party who lived in this home? Newspapersmen asked the woman next door yesterday afternoon. She didn't know, she declared. 'Yes, yes,' she exclaimed when the bandit was described to her. 'He was an Indian from all appearances,' the woman stated, 'but somehow we did not get acquainted with each other. There was another man in the house who did the chores and made himself conspicuous about the place.'

"Starr is already given credit for having turned state's evidence and causing the arrest of Claude Sawyer, Bud Maxfield and Sam Estes, in connection with the Stroud affair, and he is also accredited with having given out the information that the plans for the robbery were executed at the Tulsa fairgrounds about a mile northeast of his Burnett street home.

"Neighbors say no one has been occupying the house for three weeks, and when the coincidence is mentioned they remember that the last time anyone was seen at 1534 East Second street was the day Henry Starr was shot at Stroud, Saturday, March 27. At that time he wired his folks that he was shot. The Tulsa newspapers also blazoned the news to the public. The woman in the house went to Stroud and then to Chandler, where Henry is convalescing in the county jail—hence she has not been at the Tulsa residence since that time.

"The inside of the Starr home presented the general appearance of the average modest American home. The windows were curtained and draped, the floors stained and carpeted, fancywork and bric-a-brac decorated the tables and mantels, and the gramophone sat in the dining room built-in window. The record on the machine was 'Where the River Shannon Flows.'

"Working clothes that might have been used by either a bandit or a chauffeur—Starr was both—were strewn about the house which had been left in untidy condition when the occupants were apparently hurriedly called away. An extraordinary amount of ammunition for a .45 caliber Colt and Winchester rifles lay on the dresser, and slouch hats, typical cowboy boots and gauntlets were piled on the clothing on the floor. But Henry Starr will not soon have the opportunity to resume his comfortable occupancy of the building. The furniture has been packed and a real estate firm has placed a sign on the front veranda 'For Rent.'

"In fact, the outlaw had assumed the name of R. L. Williams, the name of the governor of Oklahoma, who offered \$1,000 reward for his arrest. This is disclosed by the fact that the telephone in the bandit's Tulsa bungalow was contracted for in the name of R. L. Williams. The contract was dated January 21, and the telephone number was 5437.

"The gas contract with the Osage & Oklahoma Co. was made on January 15, and was in the name of Laura Wilson, while the contract for city water for the house at 1534 Burnett street was in the name of Laura Williams.

"The slight discrepancy in the names used leads to belief that it had been adopted about the time the house was rented, and not indelibly impressed upon the mind of the 'business head' of the household."

"The following story relating to Starr appeared in The World April 4, 1915. It was accompanied by two photographs, one of Starr lying in a bed and another of the bank he helped rob:

"Another remnant of the frontier days of Indian Territory has probably passed. Henry Starr, the most spectacular outlaw and bandit that ever operated in the southwest with the possible exception of Jesse James, is being wounded in the county jail at Chandler, Okla., the victim of the foolish daring of an 18-year-old boy. Hanging over his head are enough jail sentences to insure that he will die a convict unless the pardoning power is used or he should manage to make his escape.

"The end of his notorious career came last Saturday when he with seven other bandits rode out of the grim Osage hills, terrified the town of Stroud in Lincoln county and robbed the two banks there.

"In the running battle that followed in the streets, Starr was shot in the leg and crippled by a young lad. Another member of the band, Louis Peters, was shot in the neck and both were captured. The other outlaws rode away with most of the loot, dodged passes for several days and are probably now safe in their fastness in the heart of the rough and picturesque Osage nation.

"Many stories have been told of Starr's career. Some, however, are doubtless fiction. Just how many wives he had is also doubtful, but it is known that one of his wives lived and taught school in Tulsa for several years. His mother lives in Tulsa at the present time, and was until recently the wife of a member of the Tulsa police force. The following is an account of his life as can be pieced at this time: 'Henry Starr was a son of old Tom Starr, the noted Cherokee fighter with a record equaled by Zeke Proctor, the Cherokee with whom the government was forced to make a treaty giving him amnesty for his crimes.

"Henry Starr as an Indian boy

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was a bootlegger, or was unlawfully introducing liquor into the nation, was soon accused of stealing cattle and horses; as a young man was connected with the robbery of the Carter store at Nowata, the Schufeldt store at Lenapah, the robbery of the R. & T. train at Adair and the killing of Deputy United States Marshal Floyd Wilson and the robbery of the Peoples bank at Bentonville, Ark.

"For this murder Starr was sentenced to be hanged and was in federal prison at Fort Smith, where the notorious Cherokee Bill was confined. Bill was secretly furnished with a loaded six-shooter and at the opportune moment shot his guard and was making his way to the outer door, trying to get a shot at the turnkey. Just at this critical moment Starr slipped behind Bill, grabbed the gun and soon had him back in his cell. For this deed the sentence Starr was changed to life imprisonment. In 1906 President Roosevelt pardoned him.

"Starr tried to turn a deaf ear to the call of the trail, and located at Dewey, near Bartlesville. But in March, 1908, the bank of Tyson, a little town in southern Kansas, was robbed of \$2,500 and the crime was laid at the door of Starr. He, 'Kid' Wilson and another man were in the woods about eight miles southeast of Oklahoma, both pursued by a strong posse. The bandits made a sneak and the armed officers went into camp for the night. During the darkest hours the bandits slipped up on the camp, covered the officers, disarmed them, took their mounts and sent them back to Oklahoma.

"Nothing was heard of Starr until the bank robbery at Anita, Colo., in the spring of 1908. It is reported by friends of Starr that he and 'Kid' Wilson remained within 10 miles of Anita for over a month.

Starr was later captured at Lamar, while going under the name of Jack. In November, 1909, he was arraigned at Lamar and arraigned all his friends by pleading guilty to robbing the Lamar bank. He was sent to the state penitentiary at Boulder, where he served a little over four years.

"Starr began his prison term the day after Thanksgiving, 1909, and was released late in 1913. He was in that same prison in 1914, but was soon pardoned.

"While Starr was serving his time for the Anita bank robbery, he and his wife, Roosevelt, were at Dewey, Washington county, Oklahoma, and at Tulsa, Okla., where she taught school while waiting for his term to expire. Recently she has secured a divorce in an Oklahoma court on the charge of non-support and neglect. There is a romance about how Henry Starr got his wife.

"She was living at Joplin, Mo., and was a passenger on the train that was held up at Pryor Creek in August, 1902. Starr stood on the platform of the first coach in order to better direct the operations of his men and observe what was going on about the coaches. Soon after the bandits began their work a badly scared girl appeared at the door of the coach, sitting to the steps before she could be stopped and disappeared in the darkness. The work of the robbers consumed about half an hour, at the end of which Starr and his men mounted their horses and started through the woods. About half a mile from the scene of the robbery the bandits came upon the crazed young girl Starr finally took her on his horse and to their camp in the woods. She gave the name of Mary Smith and her home as Joplin. After several days, during which the girl seemed to take a liking to the bandit chief, Starr told her they were being pur-

sued rather closely, and that he wanted to take her to the station and send her home. One of the men escorted her and saw that she was safely on the train to Joplin.

"Before leaving the robber camp she agreed with Starr that he might visit her, and it was believed by his pals that Starr had virtually won a bride before she left their camp. A few weeks later he visited Joplin under the name of Frank Jackson and shortly the couple were married. He was in Joplin as a New Mexico rancher and the couple soon went to Las Vegas and from there to Colorado Springs, where Starr was captured. She then returned to Tulsa and engaged in teaching, which she followed during all his terms in the Colorado prison.

"Starr was an expert with a six-shooter. The story is told that on one occasion a passing acquaintance, hearing of his marksmanship, asked him to give a demonstration. Walking to the edge of a pond, Starr drew two revolvers, one in each hand—and spent 15 minutes shooting the heads off of turtles that came to the surface. He apparently took careless aim, but never missed a shot.

PURCHASERS TO EXPAND

Branches of National Organization Planned for Louisiana (Times)

To carry the "good tidings" of the cause of affiliation with the National Association of Purchasing Agents to buyers in several cities in Texas and Louisiana will be the mission upon which Mr. N. H. Borden, secretary of the Purchasing Agents' Association of Oklahoma, will depart Sunday evening. Mr. Borden will speak to the Manufacturers' Association of Dallas on the work of the National Association Monday evening, to the Fort Worth Purchasing Agents' association Tuesday evening, and to a group of independent purchasing agents at Shreveport, La., Thursday evening. He is hoping to form new associations in Dallas and Shreveport. The Oklahoma association is already responsible for the organization for the association at Fort Worth and Houston.

He pleaded "guilty" to the Murder of His Own Daughter, but He Was as Innocent as a New-Born Babe about it in "guilty" by Pauline Hurd in Commonwealth for February—Get your copy today—Advt.



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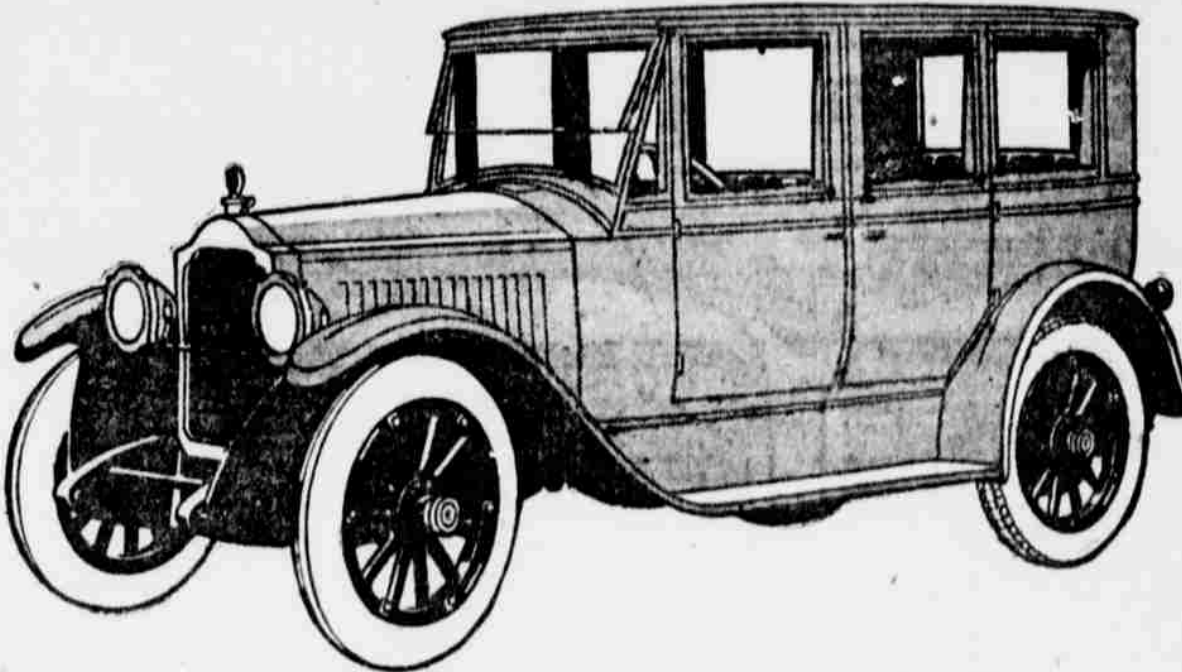
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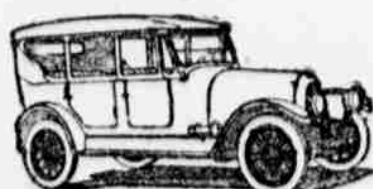
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